REMARKS

In the first Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification at page 21, line 18, requesting that the serial number of the application to which reference is made be provided. By this paper, applicant has amended the specification as requested.

In the first Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-28, 30 and 32-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,075,570 to Usui et al ("Usui"), rejected claims 32-33 and 43-44 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Usui, and rejected claims 29 and 31 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Usui in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,411 to Williams et al ("Williams").

All of the previously pending claims have been cancelled and have been replaced by new claims 45-55 that have been prepared to further clarify and define the novel features of the present invention. All of the pending claims are now drawn to a system for receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data from one or more EPG data providers in one or more data formats and for providing consolidated EPG data available in a standardized format to one or more applications running on the system. The claims further require that the system be structured in such a way that the system can be readily modified to add additional EPG data providers, to remove existing EPG data providers, and to accommodate changes in the native formats of existing or future EPG data providers without having to modify or update the code of any of the one or more applications. To accomplish these objectives, each of the pending claims requires a specific architecture that comprises, *inter alia*, an EPG services module for receiving EPG data from the one or more EPG data providers and providing consolidated EPG data in a standardized format to the one or more applications residing on the system and an application program interface configured to provide a standardized interface between the EPG control module and the one or more applications requiring EPG data. The claims also recite one or more EPG loader modules with a separate EPG loader module for each EPG data source, each EPG loader module being configured to receive EPG data from an EPG data provider in a native format used by the EPG data provider and including computer executable instructions for converting the EPG data received from the EPG data provider from its native format to a standardized format compatible with the EPG services module and the one or more applications.

Neither of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the novel architecture disclosed and claimed in claims 45-55. Usui discloses one specific implementation

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for providing a consolidated EPG with data received from one or more sources. Williams discloses another specific implementation for providing a consolidated EPG with data received from one or more sources. However, Usui and Williams, either individually or in combination, do not teach or disclose the specific and novel architecture as presently claimed. More specifically, neither Usui nor Williams specifically disclose or suggest the use of a one or more EPG loader modules with a separate EPG loader module for each EPG data source. Furthermore, neither reference discloses any motivation for, nor the advantages that are achieved by, the system disclosed and claimed in the present application. More specifically, neither of the references identify the problem specifically addressed by, nor teach or suggest the advantages achieved by, the present invention, namely, that the system can be readily modified to add additional EPG data providers, to remove existing EPG data providers, or to accommodate changes in the native formats of existing or future EPG data providers without having to modify or update the code of any of the one or more applications.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of newly presented claims 45-55. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2003.
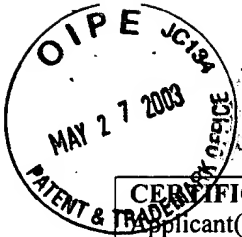
Respectfully submitted,

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Invention: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE DATA SERVICES					

I hereby certify that the Transmittal letter (2 pages) (in triplicate); Amendment "A" (7 pgs); and postcard are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on MAY 27, 2003 .

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